(c) and (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is continuously augmenting the International Internet Bandwidth to meet the demand of increasing customer base of broadband as well as Internet Service. As on 03.08.2005, the International Internet bandwidth with BSNL is 1161.5 Mbps.

Growth in mobile and fixed lines

1927. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Telecom sector registered a very high growth in the last three years for both mobile and fixed lines;

(b) what is the total number of fixed and mobile lines at present in the country; and

(c) by when the new National Telecom Policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Mobile telephone connections have increased from 64,31,520 to 5,67,26,605 in last three years (*i.e.* 1st April, 2002 to 30th June, 2005) and fixed line telephone connections have increased from 3,84,40,906 to 4,65,59,612 during this period.

(b) The total number of fixed and mobile connections are 4,65,59,612 and 5,67,26,605 respectively as on 30.06.2005.

(c) The New Telecom Policy is likely to be announced by the end of 2005.

Computerisation of Post Offices

1928. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had sought Rs. 500/- crores from the Planning Commission for including those Post Offices that have not been included in the computerization project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount so far got from the Planning Commission for this purpose;

(d) the number of computers involved in this project, State-wise and District-wise;

(e) whether Government have any proposal to reduce staff due to this computerization; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Posts has submitted a project proposal to the Planning Commission seeking financial assistance of Rs. 625 crore to computerize and network remaining 18465 Departmental Sub Post Offices, which are not covered under the Tenth Plan Scheme of computerization of Post Offices.

(c) The Planning Commission is yet to give its approval for the project and hence no amount has been allocated.

(d) Number of computers involved in the project, State-wise and District-wise, is yet to be worked out as the project has not been approved so far.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal to reduce staff in the project.

Annual bilateral summit between India and Russia

1929. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have decided to held an annual bilateral summit this year;

(b) whether External Affairs Minister at the meeting with the Indo-Russia-China interaction recently announced and backed programme of Indo-Russia exchange for this year;

(c) if so, whether India, Russia and China have agreed to have package programme of bilateral exchanges; and

(d) if so, whether all these three countries have agreed to work together in all international affairs and also help India in getting UN seat?